

Message Text

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71

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AS-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 HEW-06

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 DHA-02 SCA-01 SCSE-00

USIA-15 EB-07 IO-11 /069 W
----- 080627

R 012350Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 610

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 1768

DEPT PLEASE PASS ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, GT

SUBJECT: GUATEMALAN EARTHQUAKE - MISSION EMPLOYEES' RELIEF

1. U.S. MISSION GUATEMALA HAS RECEIVED A NUMBER OF INQUIRIES FROM MISSION WORLD-WIDE CONCERNING POSSIBLE EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR ITS GUATEMALAN EMPLOYEES WHO SUFFERED FROM THE RECENT DISASTROUS EARTHQUAKE. U.S. MISSION WISHES TO THANK THOSE POSTS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO ALREADY HAVE GENEROUSLY GIVEN FOR THIS PURPOSE. MISSION INITIALLY CONCENTRATED ITS OWN RESOURCES AND THOSE RECEIVED FROM OTHERS ON PROVIDING FOOD, WATER, CLOTHING, TENTS AND OTHER TYPES OF IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY GUATEMALAN EMPLOYEES. HOWEVER, THE IMMEDIATE CRISIS HAS NOW BEEN MET AND OUR RESOURCES ARE INSUFFICIENT TO THE FAR MORE COSTLY TASK OF ASSISTING IN PROVIDING PERMANENT SHELTER FOR THE GUATEMALAN EMPLOYEES WHO LOST THEIR HOMES. SWIFT ACTION IS NECESSARY BECAUSE THE RAINY SEASON WILL START IN ABOUT TWO AND ONE-HALF MONTHS. MISSION ESTABLISHING AN ACCOUNT TO PROVIDE FOR LOANS AND GRANTS FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF GUATEMALAN EMPLOYEES' HOUSING, PARTICULARLY THOSE ON THE LOWER PAY SCALES WHO HAVE LITTLE OR NO ACCESS TO OTHER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND WHO WITH THEIR FAMILIES WILL SUFFER THE MOST WHEN THE HEAVY RAINS ARRIVE. AN ESTIMATED
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18 PERCENT OF MISSION AND ROCAP GUATEMALAN PERSONNEL HAD

THEIR HOUSES COMPLETELY DEMOLISHED; ANOTHER 35 PERCENT
HAD THEIR HOUSES SEVERELY DAMAGED BY THE EARTHQUAKE. THE
MISSION REALIZES IT CANNOT RECONSTRUCT EVERY HOUSE BUT
WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN PUTTING
ROOFS OVER THE HEADS OF THE NEEDIEST BEFORE THE RAINY SEASON.

2. SUGGEST ABOVE TEXT ALSO BE USED FOR FOREIGN SERVICE
JOURNAL, FOREIGN SERVICE NEWSLETTER, AID NEWSLETTER
"FRONTLINES", AND ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE PUBLICATIONS.
MELOY

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS.

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, FOREIGN SERVICE LOCAL EMPLOYEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GUATEM01768
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760078-0521
From: GUATEMALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197603108/aaaadrre.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAY 2004 by fisherem>; APPROVED <20 DEC 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GUATEMALAN EARTHQUAKE - MISSION EMPLOYEES' RELIEF
TAGS: SWEL, GT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006